

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FOR INSTRUCTORS: Winter 2023**

**ISABEL BALLARD, M.S.W.**, her degree is Master of Applied Social Science (MSW equivalent). Ms. Ballard is currently an intern at Bella Care Hospice in Ohio. She currently works at Fieldstone Farm Therapeutic Riding Center. She is a Certified Riding Instructor. Ms. Ballard provides mindfulness initiative for program and barn staff. She is currently at Student Run Health Clinic in Ohio as the director of Social Work and on the International Association of Veterinary Social Work Board Director of Communication & Social Media.

**THOMAS E. BROFFMAN, PhD, L.I.C.S.W., C.A.A.D.A.C., C.C.S., C.E.A.P.**, has been a social worker and addictions counselor for many years. He is a regionally known motivational interviewing trainer and consultant for over 23 years. He recently retired from academia after 14 years. He returned to clinical practice at the Connection, Inc. He has a BSW and a MSW from the University of Pittsburgh, SSWK and a Ph.D. from Boston College, GSSW. He is the vice president of the CT-NASW.

**MARIA CLOW, B.S.**, is a Human Services Advocate at DMHAS. Ms. Clow is a trainer with vast experience developing training and workshops. She has many years with the Criminal Justice and Human Service field.

**ANTHONY CRETELLA, R.N.**, is a Registered Nurse who has worked as a Medical / Surgical Nurse since 2010 in the state's largest hospital systems. Previous to coming to Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services he worked in Connecticut's Department of Corrections as a Nurse and Facility Staff Educator. While with CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services he has functioned as a Nurse Consultant and Clinical educator.

**TAYLOR D'ADDARIO, M.A.**, is a therapist and grant manager at a community mental health center in RI as well as a consultant who provides state departments and mental health agencies technical assistance around developing behavioral health programs and trainings. Taylor received her master's degree at Salve Regina University in holistic mental health counseling. Taylor is a licensed substance use counselor and is perusing her independent license in mental health counseling.

**LAUREN DONINGER, Ph.D.**, is a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor and a Licensed Professional Counselor. She has worked in a variety of clinical settings including residential, detox, outpatient, intensive outpatient, and with many different client populations. Currently, Dr. Doninger is a Professor of Psychology and Drug and Alcohol Recovery Counseling at Gateway Community College in New Haven.

**CATHERINE EWING, L.C.S.W., MDiv**, founder of Sacred Heart Alchemy, is a Transformational Life Coach, spiritually focused psychotherapist, EFT Practitioner, Minister of Spiritual Peacemaking, and energy healing practitioner. A student of the mind/body/spirit connection for over 25 years, Catherine is also a TEDx speaker. She loves training mental health professionals in the use of alternative modalities in psychotherapy and offers classes, workshops and retreats on a variety of topics related to the mind/body/spirit connection, spiritual awakening and women's transformation at midlife.

Prior to her work as a coach, psychotherapist and healer, Catherine worked in the areas of sexual assault, domestic violence, child protective services, women's reproductive rights and school social work. She served as the Ct. Coordinator of the Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children and was a volunteer with the Trauma Relief Program in Newtown, CT following the school shootings in Sandy Hook. A life-long learner and spiritual seeker, Catherine brings a broad understanding of spiritual and metaphysical principles and a wide variety of practical tools and resources into her work and trainings.

**FIORIGIO (FRED) FETTA, L.P.C., ICGC-II, BACC, AADC**, is the Clinical Director of Problem Gambling Services with the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS) in Connecticut. Prior to his work with DMHAS, he provided treatment at United Community & Family Services (UCFS) for gamblers and persons affected by gambling in Eastern Connecticut for seven years in the roles of Supervisor and clinician of the Bettor Choice Gambling Treatment Program. Fred was also a substance abuse clinician in a Methadone Maintenance Treatment Program for nearly two years at Community Substance Abuse Centers (CSAC) in Hartford. He obtained his undergraduate degree at Eastern Connecticut State University and his Master's degree in Community Counseling at Fairfield University. Fred is on the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Certification Board (CCB).

**DAVID HOWE, L.C.S.W.**, has over 40 years of experience in the mental health and addiction recovery field as an administrator, psychiatric clinician, consultant and trainer. He served as Director of Recovery Services and Consumer Affairs Director from 2007-2014 at Connecticut Valley Hospital. During that time, he was twice honored with the State of CT Distinguished Managerial Services Award for his administrative oversight, research and implementation of Person-Centered Recovery-Oriented Services. Known for his ability to effectively improve systems through creative problem solving, he pioneered a collaborative patient/staff committee that implemented significant reduction in the use of restraint and seclusion on inpatient units. He has developed and implemented a variety of innovative recovery-oriented initiatives that have ongoing influence on services and culture at CVH and the surrounding state mental health and addiction community. David is Clinical Director of the St Vincent DePaul Mission of Waterbury and is a member of the adjunct faculty in Psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine.

**SAMIA HUSSEIN, M.P.H.**, currently serves as the Director of the Office of Multicultural Health Equity with the Office of the Commissioner. She received her Master's in Public Health from the University of Connecticut and her Undergraduate degree from Central CT State University. She has experience developing training curriculum and facilitating workshops in various settings and has worked with diverse populations.

**KATIE KIRCH, L.C.S.W., ICGC-II**, is a 2011 Graduate of the UCONN School of Social Work and received her LCSW in 2013 where she worked as a therapist for the Bettor Choice gambling treatment program at The Connection Inc., in Middletown, CT. From there, she has gone on to become the Program Manager for The Bettor Choice Program at Wheeler Clinic in Hartford, CT. As an Internationally Certified Gambling Counselor, she has dedicated her career to helping those affected by Gambling Disorders in the state of CT. Katie has continued to develop her professional skills by becoming an EMDR therapist and an Acupuncture Detox Specialist and has taught Social Work courses as an Adjunct Professor at the UCONN School of Social Work in Hartford, CT. Katie has also been able to share her knowledge and experiences on a national level where she presented at the National Conference on Problem Gambling at both the Orlando, Florida Conference in 2014 and in Baltimore, Maryland in 2015.

**KELLY LEPPARD, CPS**, is a Certified Prevention Specialist and the Primary Prevention Services Coordinator for Problem Gambling Services with the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Kelly has been working in the prevention field since 2008 after graduating from Western New England University. Prior to the State, Kelly worked for the Southington STEPS Coalition as the coordinator of a Federal Drug Free Communities Support Program grant.

**RUTA MAZELIS, B.A.**, was the editor of The Cutting Edge: A Newsletter for People Living with Self-Inflicted Violence, an internationally distributed quarterly on the topic of self-injury, founded in 1990. Ms. Mazelis has provided presentations and publications on this topic, as well as others, such as trauma and trauma-informed systems of care, to a variety of audiences. A survivor of trauma herself, she has experience in providing services in mental health and substance abuse programs as well as in service and policy development, and research. She is on the staff of the Mental Health Empowerment Project and the Sidran Institute, serves on the board of the National Trauma Consortium, was a program manager for the National Center for Trauma-Informed Care, and serves as a consultant to various projects at local and federal levels. Ms. Mazelis can be contacted at 6196 Vo Ash Dr. SW, Carrollton, OH 44615; by e-mail at [rutamazelis@frontier.com](mailto:rutamazelis@frontier.com) or phone 330-627-5411.

**MARGARET O'HAGAN-LYNCH, M.S., L.P.C.**, is the Director of the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Office of Workforce Development. She maintains a private practice in Wallingford, CT and is an adjunct faculty member of Bay Path University, the New England Institute of Addiction Studies and the Addiction Technology Transfer Center at Brown University. She has worked in the behavioral health field for over 35 years and is known for her expertise in working with people who have co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. She has vast experience in both the public and private non-profit sectors in program design/implementation, staff development, training/consultation, and community networking while remaining active in addressing treatment needs on both a local and statewide level.

**MARY-K O'SULLIVAN, LMFT, LADC, LPC**, has been working as a Clinical Manager and Clinical Trainer for over 30 years. She has worked in both the private and public sectors in the fields of criminal justice, substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders and clinical supervision in both inpatient and outpatient programs. She has worked as a trainer for the Department of Corrections, the Judicial Department, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Social Services, UCONN Medical School, the Department of Education, and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services in the State of Connecticut as well as working as a Clinical Preceptor for the SARP program at the Groton Naval Submarine Base. She has trained both Nationally and Internationally including spending 10 years training with David Powell, PhD. and spending time in Singapore assisting their treatment system leaders in developing skills in co-occurring disorders treatment. She currently provides training and/or clinical supervision and oversight to Private Non-profits, DOC staff, DCF staff, DOL staff, CSSD staff including adult and juvenile probation officers, parole officers, juvenile residential services staff, bail staff, women's and family matters staff, clinicians, case managers, and medical staff.

**MICHELE PALIOTTA, L.I.C.S.W.**, is a social worker with over 20 years of experience in clinical and community practice. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Social Work at Rhode Island College School of Social Work in Providence, RI and maintains a psychotherapy practice focused on adolescents and adults in the LGBTQ community. Michele recently provided clinical supervision for two COVID tracing teams in RI. She also provides training nationally and internationally on a number of topics to corporate, educational and community care settings. Topics include mental health and LGBTQ cultural competence, mental health and well-being in the workplace, de-escalation training for community agencies and trauma informed care. Michele's social work practice is firmly rooted in the principles of social justice for all people. Michele earned her Bachelor of Science in Human Services at Northeastern University, and her Master of Social Work at Rhode Island College. Michele's personal self-care consists of growing vegetables, flowers and raising chickens.

**RUTH PEARLMAN, M.ED, M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W.**, is a Psychotherapist in Private Practice, Independent Consultant to Grieving Communities, and Adjunct Professor of Social Work at The University of Connecticut School of Social Work. Ruth Pearlman has been working in the field of Social Work and Human Services for over 30 years. Her areas of therapeutic focus include working with people on the Autism Spectrum, children in alternative care with attachment issues (such as adoption, foster and residential), and those experiencing PTSD and trauma. Ruth has presented to multiple agencies and conference audiences on the topics of Grief and Loss, Covid -Centered Assumptive World Loss, and The Sensory Integration of Children and Adults. As an Adjunct faculty member at UCONN School of Social Work, Ruth has developed and designed the school's course on Grief and Loss.

**KIMBERLY PLATT, L.C.S.W., L.A.D.C.**, has over thirty years of experience as a clinician, program director and consultant in the behavioral health field. She serves as faculty at Manchester Community College and maintains a private practice.

**EDWIN RENAUD, L.C.S.W., Ph.D.**, began his career at the Veterans Administration and has worked with survivors of trauma for over twenty years. He has published on the topics of attachment characteristics in combat veterans and working with trauma survivors in forensic settings. He is currently the Director of Social Work and Multicultural Services at Connecticut Valley Hospital.

**SHANE SCOTT, L.C.S.W.,** received his master's from University of Connecticut School of Social Work 2021. He believes that compassion, understanding, and fostering a holistic approach are an integral part of the healing process. As a dynamic and skilled social worker. Shane begins a vast array of experience beginning in 2005, where he began his career with working in with youth and families across the life span and a variety of settings, including schools and communities. In addition, Shane has experience working with individuals that are experiencing depression, anxiety, trauma, and substance abuse conditions. Shane also has a strong passion and skill in working with individuals experiencing gender and sexual identity issue. Shane also has a talent with facilitating trainings, workshops, and coaching other professionals. Shane currently has a private practice in West Hartford, Connecticut. Shane also facilitates personal and professional development trainings for the LGBTQIA+ Community.

**DONALD SCHERLING, Psy.D., L.A.D.C.,** is a Senior Clinical Consultant, Health Educator, Behavioral Health Wellness Coach, assistant in the Care for Caregivers Yoga program, & a Clinical Faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield, MA. Dr. Scherling is a certified trainer for the Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR Institute), the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC), and a Senior Clinical Consultant and Trainer with the Connecticut Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services, the CT Women's Consortium and other regional and state-wide agencies in the Northeast.

**RAYMOND TAFRATE, Ph.D.,** is an associate professor and clinical psychologist at Central Connecticut State University, as well as a fellow and supervisor at the Albert Ellis Institute for Behavior Therapy. He is also an author, consultant and trainer.

**DAVID TOLIN, Ph.D.,** Dr. Tolin is the Founder and Director of the Anxiety Disorders Center at the Institute of Living, and an Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine. He is the Past-President of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, the Past-President of the Clinical Psychology Division of the American Psychological Association, and a principal investigator for the National Institutes of Health. He received the Award for Lifetime Contribution to Psychology from the Connecticut Psychological Association. Dr. Tolin is the author of over 200 scientific journal articles, as well as several books including *Doing CBT: A Comprehensive Guide to Working with Behaviors, Thoughts, and Emotions* and *Buried in Treasures: Help for Compulsive Acquiring, Saving, and Hoarding*. Dr. Tolin has been featured on the reality TV series *Hoarders* and *The OCD Project*, and has been a recurrent guest on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and *The Dr. Oz Show*.

**AVIVA VINCENT, Ph.D., L.M.S.W., V.S.M.,** earned her doctoral degree from Case Western Reserve University, Veterinary Social Work Certificate from the University of Tennessee, a fellowship with Animals in Society, and trained at The Institute for Interdisciplinary Salivary Bioscience Research, "spit camp". She is an instructor in the Veterinary Social Work and Veterinary Human Support Certificate Program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Her research interest includes exploring the physiological impact of the human-animal bond; specifically, the potential animal support to reduce fear and anxiety in stressful situations. She is co-founder and owner of Healing Paws LLC, the only VSW practice in Northeast Ohio. Dr. Vincent is on the advisory board of the Center for Human Animal Education Research and Education at Ohio State University, board of directors for the International Association of Veterinary Social Workers, and is founder of the human-animal interactions workgroup with the National Association of Social Workers-Ohio chapter. Dr. Vincent is a contributor to the forthcoming volume *The Comprehensive Guide to Interdisciplinary Veterinary Social Work, and Career Paths in Human-Animal Interaction for Social and Behavioral Scientists*.

**JEREMY WAMPLER, L.C.S.W., ICGC-II, BACC, L.A.D.C.** is the Program Director for the State of Connecticut, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Problem Gambling Services. Jeremy earned his Master in Social Work from Southern Connecticut State University, and he has been practicing in the field of problem gambling for over a decade. He is a board member on the International Gambling Counselor Certification Board, as well as the Association of Problem Gambling Services Administrators. Jeremy is a licensed clinical social worker, internationally certified gambling counselor, licensed alcohol and drug counselor, as well as a board approved clinical consultant, through the IGCCB.

**JOANNA WHITE, M.S., Ed.D.,** is an experienced lecturer, trainer and instructor. She is the Assistant Professional, Program Coordinator for Human and Social Services at Manchester Community College. She has a strong background working in the human services administration and higher education.

**LISA WIBORG, L.I.S.W-S, V.S.W.,** completed her graduate degree in Social Work at The Ohio State University and her post-graduate certification in veterinary social work from the University of Tennessee. She has worked in direct clinical settings such as hospital social work, hospice care, and private adoption. Lisa is currently implementing her expertise on the human-animal bond in her current work in hospice. She has also developed a private practice, Healing Paws LLC which focuses on providing social work support into veterinary clinics in Northeast Ohio. Together with her Clinical Scholars Team, she will be implementing an evidenced based program to reduce compassion fatigue and burnout in veterinary medicine and promote the utilization of mental health services in the field. Lisa is currently the lead medical social worker for her hospice agency and continues to focus on education and support in the veterinary social work field with Healing Paws, LLC.

**PATRICIA D. WILCOX, L.C.S.W.,** is the Vice President of Strategic Development at Klingberg Family Centers in New Britain, CT. At Klingberg she was a clinician and the Clinical Director before obtaining her current position in 2005. She specializes in the treatment of traumatized children and their families and has presented extensively on this topic at several conferences including the Child Welfare League of America, the National Association of Social Workers, the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, the Black Administrators in Child Welfare, the Alliance for Children and Families, and the American Association of Children's Residential Centers. Ms. Wilcox is the creator of the Restorative Approach, a trauma and relationship based approach to congregate care treatment of children and the author of *Trauma Informed Care: The Restorative Approach* published by NEARI Press. She is a trainer for the Risking Connection® trauma training program and an adjunct faculty at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work and St. Joseph's University School of Social Work. Ms. Wilcox was selected as the Social Worker of the Year by NASW/CT in 2011.

**IAN ZETTERVALL, L.P.C., L.A.D.C.,** is a therapist in private practice. He has had many years of experience working in the field of human services and trainings.